



Myfuture CBC Revision

literature in english - Grade 10

Question Paper

1. Which phrase best describes how oral songs handle change and continuity?

- A. They reject community influence and remain private
- B. They are copied verbatim from printed anthologies only
- C. They balance stable formulas (continuity) with improvisation or additions (change)
- D. They never change and cannot adapt to new circumstances

2. Which grammatical construction is typically used in poems to focus attention on the recipient of an action rather than the actor, for example "The poem was admired by many"?

- A. Active voice — keeps the subject performing the action in focus
- B. Imperative mood — gives a command rather than describing who acted
- C. Coordination — links two independent clauses with a conjunction
- D. Passive voice — places the object of an action as the grammatical subject to shift focus

3. Why is it important to include specific details like dates and places in an autobiography?

- A. They distract readers from the main story
- B. They make the text longer so it seems more important
- C. They help verify events and give readers a clearer sense of time and context
- D. They are required for all fiction genres

4. What is the best definition of oral poetry (songs) in the context of Kenyan oral literature?

- A. A musical score without words used only for religious services
- B. A fixed written text composed by a single poet for publication
- C. Spoken or sung poetic performance transmitted by word of mouth across a
- D. A modern radio script read aloud on air

5. Why might a poet deliberately use incorrect subject-verb agreement in a line like 'There is many stars'?

- A. To achieve a dialectal voice or maintain meter
- B. To remove all meaning
- C. To make the line grammatically perfect
- D. Because grammar rules never apply in poetry

6. What is a lullaby in oral literature?

- A. A type of praise poem for hunters
- B. A gentle song sung to soothe a baby to sleep
- C. A work song for pounding grain
- D. A ceremonial battle chant

7. Which of the following is a common reason people write autobiographies?

- A. To create scientific experiments
- B. To invent a fictional world unrelated to their life
- C. To record personal experiences and share lessons learned
- D. To write exam answers only

8. Which stylistic feature is most characteristic of oral poetry and songs?

- A. Use of complicated mathematical formulas
- B. Complete lack of musical rhythm
- C. Strict adherence to rhyme schemes only seen in written sonnets
- D. Repetition and use of refrains

9. Which phrase often begins traditional oral stories in many Kenyan communities?

- A. "Please read the book silently" said the teacher
- B. "Legal notice: This is a factual report"
- C. "Once upon a time" or a local equivalent that signals the start of a tale
- D. "Insert coin to continue"

10. Which type of oral song would most likely be used to soothe a child to sleep?

- A. Praise song for a warrior
- B. Lullaby
- C. Political rally chant
- D. Harvest work chant

11. Which of these is an example of a reflective technique often found near the end of an autobiography?

- A. Looking back to interpret the meaning of past events and stating lessons learned
- B. Including unrelated advertisements
- C. Switching to a fictional narrator mid-book
- D. Listing random homework assignments

12. What purpose do mnemonic devices like rhymes and patterned phrases serve in oral narratives?

- A. They make the story impossible to recite
- B. They ensure the story is only useful for legal documents
- C. They prevent any listener from understanding the tale
- D. They help storytellers remember details and provide cues for listeners to anticipate what

13. Which of these is a typical feature of oral narration?

- A. Reliance solely on printed illustrations
- B. Strict silence during storytelling
- C. No interaction with listeners
- D. Use of gestures, voice modulation and facial expressions

14. In Kenyan schools, when studying an autobiography, which of these questions is most relevant for comprehension?

- A. How does the author's experience reflect historical and social issues in Kenya?
- B. What is the formula for finding the author's age?
- C. Which made-up characters are the heroes?
- D. How many fictional towns are described in the story?

15. Which of the following best explains why an autobiography might not be completely factual?

- A. Autobiographies are written by historians only
- B. Authors always invent events to entertain
- C. Autobiographies must be fictional by definition
- D. Memory is selective and the author may interpret events from their personal viewpoint

16. If a student finds they have conflicting memories of an event, what is a helpful journal technique?

- A. Ask someone else to write the entry for them
- B. Invent a fictional account and claim it as truth
- C. Delete all memory of the event immediately
- D. Record both versions and note feelings or reasons for the difference

17. What is oral literature?

- A. Books and printed poems studied in school
- B. Music recorded in a studio
- C. Stories, songs and poems passed down by word of mouth
- D. Legal documents written by elders

18. Which feature in oral narratives helps listeners remember long sequences of events?

- A. Extensive scientific jargon
- B. Including unrelated statistics in the story
- C. Long uninterrupted paragraphs with no repetition
- D. Use of rhythmic patterns, repetition and refrains

19. Which is a distinguishing feature of a riddle as an oral narrative form?

- A. A musical score with no words
- B. A short puzzling question or description that challenges listeners to guess the answer
- C. A detailed biography of a historical figure
- D. A long legal document read aloud

20. Which oral form commonly uses metaphor and indirect language to hide the answer while entertaining listeners?

- A. Historical chronicle
- B. Scientific manual
- C. Shopping list
- D. Riddle

21. Which feature is commonly used by autobiographers to show internal thoughts and feelings?

- A. Stage directions
- B. Reflective passages and inner commentary
- C. Invented characters and subplots
- D. Maps and statistical tables

22. Which approach improves clarity when writing long journal entries?

- A. Only use abbreviations and no full words
- B. Use paragraphs to separate events, thoughts and reflections
- C. Write everything as one long sentence without breaks
- D. Mix different languages in every sentence to confuse readers

23. What is a folktale?

- A. A formal legal document
- B. A scientific report written by researchers
- C. An advertisement used in shops
- D. A traditional story passed down among people, often with moral lessons

24. How do oral poets or praise singers (e.g., in some Kenyan communities) contribute to society?

- A. They avoid mentioning community achievements
- B. They only sing advertisements for businesses
- C. They write legal documents for the courts
- D. They celebrate leaders and preserve genealogies and history through performance

25. Which grammatical feature describes using many participial phrases (e.g., "Running through the fields, laughing, he paused") and what effect does it create?

- A. Inversion — changing word order for emphasis
- B. Subordinate noun clauses — they rename the subject with extra detail
- C. Direct speech — quoting exact spoken words
- D. Participial phrases — they add vivid action or background detail while keeping the main

26. Which of the following is NOT a typical element of an autobiography?

- A. Chronological account of significant experiences
- B. Discussion of lessons learned and growth
- C. Personal reflections on life events
- D. A chapter written by a different author claiming to be the subject

27. Which of the following is a key ethical consideration when writing about other people in your journal?

- A. Avoid including sensitive details that could harm someone's reputation without consent
- B. Write only lies to protect yourself
- C. Share everything immediately with classmates
- D. Always publish their private conversations online

28. Why are songs used in initiation ceremonies often repeated year after year?

- A. Because they must be identical to musical recordings
- B. Because only young children are allowed to learn them
- C. Because they are kept secret and never performed more than once
- D. Because repetition helps preserve rites, meanings, and community identity across

29. Which language feature in oral narratives makes characters' speech vivid and immediate?

- A. An extensive bibliography at the end of the tale
- B. Direct speech (dialogue) reported aloud by the storyteller
- C. Frequent use of tables and charts
- D. Footnotes explaining each sentence

30. Which measure helps scholars study oral literature accurately?

- A. Collecting multiple versions, recording performances and noting context
- B. Refusing to document any audience reactions
- C. Removing the storyteller from the community before asking questions
- D. Only using one printed copy and ignoring live performances

31. What is a refrain in a song or oral poem?

- A. A type of cloth worn by singers
- B. A line or phrase repeated at intervals during the performance
- C. A list of names at the end of a song
- D. An instrument used to tune voices

32. A line contains a long list separated by commas: "She gathered shells, stones, feathers, leaves." What grammatical pattern is this and what rhythmic effect does it tend to have?

- A. Conditional series — hypothetical items listed to show possibilities
- B. Listing (asyndetic or syndetic) — a series of nouns or phrases that build accumulation and
- C. Inverted syntax — changing word order to emphasize the last item only
- D. Embedded clause — adding a dependent clause within a sentence for complexity

33. Which element helps distinguish an oral epic from a short chant?

- A. Both are always identical in form and function
- B. Epic has a very short duration and no story
- C. Epic is lengthy, with extended narrative and many episodes, while a chant is brief and often
- D. Chant always has a written score and epic never does

34. Which quality most clearly distinguishes oral poetry from written poetry?

- A. Its dependence on printed page numbers
- B. A strict prohibition on audience participation
- C. Its performance element and the possibility of improvisation during delivery
- D. The use of invisible ink

35. Which feature often appears at the end of an autobiography to provide closure?

- A. Reflection on lessons learned or hopes for the future
- B. A list of unrelated recipes
- C. An abrupt stop without any conclusion
- D. A description of a fictional character

36. What is the defining feature of an autobiography?

- A. A fictional story inspired by historical events
- B. A factual account of a person's life written by that person
- C. A biography written by someone else about a public figure
- D. A collection of poems about childhood

37. Which of these is an example of nominalisation in a poetic line?

- A. Turning 'decide' into 'the decision'
- B. Breaking a line in two
- C. Repeating the same consonant
- D. Using a simile like 'like a river'

38. How does repetition function in oral literature?

- A. To aid memory, emphasize points and create rhythm
- B. To confuse the audience and hide the message
- C. To replace performance elements like voice and gesture
- D. To ensure the story is never changed

39. Which of these is NOT usually expected in an autobiography?

- A. Descriptions of significant people and places
- B. Honest reflection on life events
- C. Personal opinions and interpretations
- D. Complete fictional worlds with invented laws

40. What is oral-formulaic composition in the context of oral poetry?

- A. A dance move performed with the chorus
- B. A strict written rulebook that cannot be altered
- C. A technology for printing songs quickly
- D. A method of composing using fixed phrases and patterns to create new verses during

41. Which of the following is a common function of songs and oral poetry in Kenyan communities?

- A. To preserve history and teach social values
- B. To replace all forms of written education
- C. To serve as official government records
- D. To only entertain tourists

42. Which feature helps oral poetry survive across generations?

- A. Exclusive use of rare personal names
- B. Patterns like repeated refrains, simple structures, and cultural references
- C. Use of modern slang that changes every year
- D. Strictly private performances with no community involvement

43. How do autobiographies serve historians and students studying recent Kenyan history?

- A. They are only useful for learning grammar
- B. They replace all other historical documents
- C. They provide personal perspectives and first-hand accounts of events and social life
- D. They always give complete and unbiased national histories

44. What tense is most commonly used in autobiographies when narrating past life events?

- A. Imperative tense (e.g., Go!, See!)
- B. Past tense (e.g., I went, I saw)
- C. Future tense (e.g., I will go, I will see)
- D. Present tense only (e.g., I go, I see)

45. What role does the audience usually play in oral songs or poetry performances?

- A. They often participate through responses, clapping, or singing along
- B. They judge the poem in writing after the show
- C. They silently read the text on a page
- D. They are expected to write down every verse

46. What is the advantage of dating each journal entry for a Kenyan student?

- A. It makes the writing anonymous
- B. It helps trace progress and remember when events occurred
- C. It automatically makes the entry a legal record
- D. It ensures the entry will be published

47. In poetry, when a verb is left out but the meaning is clear, this omission is called what?

- A. Inversion
- B. Personification
- C. Caesura
- D. Ellipsis

48. Which oral form is usually long, heroic and recounts the deeds of a great hero or a nation?

- A. Proverb
- B. Riddle
- C. Limerick
- D. Epic

49. What is an autobiography?

- A. A book written by a person about their own life, usually in the first person
- B. A daily personal journal meant only for private use
- C. A fictional story about a made-up character
- D. A book written by someone else about another person's life

50. Why is chronology important in many autobiographies?

- A. It makes the language more poetic
- B. It helps readers follow the development of the author's life and ideas over time
- C. It turns the autobiography into a play
- D. It guarantees that the account is completely objective

